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Jon Rosenbaum,

Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Trade and Development.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Trade Benefits for Caribbean Basin Countries: Notice of Request for Public Comment Regarding Eligibility Criteria for Beneficiaries of the United States- Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA)

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and solicitation of public comment.

SUMMARY: The Caribbean/Central America Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee is requesting public comment on the eligibility of Caribbean Basin countries to receive the benefits of the recently-enacted United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA). This notice addresses the eligibility criteria that must be considered under the CBTPA, the countries considered to be Caribbean Basin countries under the CBTPA, and the deadline for written comments, and explains how written comments are to be made on the eligibility criteria elaborated in the CBTPA. Comments received will be considered by the Caribbean/Central America Subcommittee of the Trade

Policy Staff Committee, chaired by USTR, in developing recommendations on country eligibility for the President.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions, contact: Gloria Blue, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Room 122, Washington, DC 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-3475. For substantive questions, contact Bennett Harman, Office of the Western Hemisphere, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Room 523, Washington, DC 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-5190.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Signed into law on May 18, 2000, the Trade and Development Act of 2000 contains, in Title II, provisions for enhanced trade benefits for Caribbean Basin countries. Titled the "United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act" (CBTPA), the CBTPA amends the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA), also known as the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) (19 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*), to provide preferential tariff treatment for certain products presently excluded from such treatment, including duty-free and quota-free treatment for certain textile and apparel articles.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility for the enhanced trade benefits under the CBTPA is limited to countries that the President designates as "CBTPA Beneficiary Countries." The criteria that the President must take into account in designating countries as CBTPA Beneficiary Countries include the existing criteria in Section 212(b) and (c) of the CBERA, 19 USC 2702(b)-(c), as well as several new criteria added by the CBTPA. The new criteria, which are set out in section 211(a) of the CBTPA, include the following:

- "(i) Whether the beneficiary country has demonstrated a commitment to—
 - "(I) Undertake its obligations under the WTO, including those agreements listed in section 101(d) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, on or ahead of schedule; and
 - "(II) Participate in negotiations toward the completion of the FTAA or another free trade agreement.
- "(ii) The extent to which the country provides protection of intellectual property rights consistent with or greater than the protection afforded under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights described in section 101(d)(15) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act.
- "(iii) The extent to which the country provides internationally recognized worker rights, including—
 - "(I) The right of association;

- "(II) The right to organize and bargain collectively;
- "(III) A prohibition on the use of any form of forced or compulsory labor;
- "(IV) A minimum age for the employment of children; and
- "(V) Acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours or work, and occupational safety and health;
- "(iv) Whether the country has implemented its commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, as defined in section 507(6) of the Trade Act of 1974.
- "(v) The extent to which the country has met the counter-narcotics certification criteria set forth in section 490 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291j) for eligibility for United States assistance.
- "(vi) The extent to which the country has taken steps to become a party to and implements the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption.
- "(vii) The extent to which the country—
 - "(I) Applies transparent, nondiscriminatory, and competitive procedures in government procurement equivalent to those contained in the Agreement in Government Procurement described in section 101(d)(17) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act; and
 - "(II) contributes to efforts in international fora to develop and implement international rules in transparency in government procurement."

Countries Considered To Be Caribbean Basin Countries

The following countries are considered to be Caribbean Basin countries under the CBTPA:

Antigua and Barbuda
Aruba
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Costa Rica
Dominica
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Montserrat
Netherlands Antilles
Nicaragua
Panama
St. Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Trinidad and Tobago
British Virgin Islands

Submitting Written Comments

Interested parties are invited to submit comments regarding the eligibility of countries noted above for designation as CBTPA beneficiary countries. All submissions must include an original and twenty (20) copies in

English. All submissions should clearly identify on the cover page of the submission the country or countries and eligibility criterion or criteria discussed within the submission. All pages should be clearly numbered and include the name of the person and/or organization submitting the written comments. All submissions must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, July 17, 2000, and should be addressed to Gloria Blue in Room 122, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20508. Public versions of all documents relating to this review will be available for inspection by appointment in the USTR public reading room. Appointments may be scheduled between 9 a.m. and noon and 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. by calling (202) Submissions that are granted "business confidential" status and other information submitted in confidence will not be available for public inspection. Business confidential information will be subject to the requirements of 15 CFR 2003.6. A justification as to why the information contained in the submission should be treated confidentially must be included in the submission. If a document contains such business confidential information, an original and twenty (20) copies of the business confidential versions of the document along with an original and twenty (20) copies of a non-confidential version must be submitted. The document that contains business confidential information should be clearly marked "business confidential" at the top and bottom of each page. The version that does not contain business confidential information (the public version) should also be clearly marked at the top and bottom of every page (either "public version" or "non-confidential").

Peter F. Allgeier,

Associate U.S. Trade Representative for the Western Hemisphere.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Receipt of Noise Compatibility Program Modification and Request for Review Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport, Sarasota, FL

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announces that it is reviewing a proposed Noise

Compatibility Program (NCP) Modification that was submitted for Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport under the provisions of Title I of the Aviation Safety and Noise Abatement Act of 1979 (Public Law 96-193) (hereafter referred to as "the Act") and 14 CFR Part 150 by the Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority (SMAA), Sarasota, Florida. This program modification proposes to review the NCP approved on October 9, 1997, to reflect new constructive dates for eligibility for three abatement measures offered to homeowners of eligible properties within the program boundaries. These new dates are the only changes to the approved NCP. This program modification was submitted subsequent to a determination by FAA that the associated existing noise exposure maps submitted under 14 CFR Part 150 for the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport were in compliance with applicable requirements effective May 7, 1996, for the current conditions noise exposure map and June 5, 2000, for the future conditions (5-year) noise exposure map. The proposed noise compatibility program modification will be approved or disapproved on or before December 2, 2000.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The effective date of the start of FAA's review of the proposed noise compatibility program modification is June 5, 2000. The public comment period ends August 4, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Tommy J. Pickering, Federal Aviation Administration, Orlando Airports District Office, 5950 Hazeltine National Drive, Suite 400, Orlando, Florida 32822-5024, (407) 812-6331, Extension 29. Comments on the proposed noise compatibility program modification should also be submitted to the above office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice announces that the FAA is reviewing a proposed noise compatibility program modification submitted for Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport which will be approved or disapproved on or before December 2, 2000. This notice also announces the availability of this program modification for public review and comment.

An airport operator who has submitted noise exposure maps that are found by FAA to be in compliance with the requirements of Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 150, promulgated pursuant to Title I of the Act, may submit a noise compatibility program for FAA approval which sets forth the measures the operator has

taken or proposes for the reduction of existing noncompatible uses and for the prevention of the introduction of additional noncompatible uses.

The FAA has formally received the noise compatibility program modification for Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport, effective on June 5, 2000. It was requested that the FAA review this material and that the modified noise mitigation measures, to be implemented jointly by the airport and surrounding communities, be approved as a modification to an approved noise compatibility program under section 104(b) of the Act. Preliminary review of the submitted material indicates that it conforms to the requirements for the submittal of noise compatibility programs, but that further review will be necessary prior to approval or disapproval of the program modification. The formal review period, limited by law to a maximum of 180 days, will be completed on or before December 2, 2000.

The FAA's detailed evaluation will be conducted under the provisions of 14 CFR Part 150, Section 150.33. The primary considerations in the evaluation process are whether the proposed measures may reduce the level of aviation safety, create an undue burden on interstate or foreign commerce, or be reasonably consistent with obtaining the goal of reducing existing noncompatible land uses and preventing the introduction of additional noncompatible land uses.

Interested persons are invited to comment on the proposed program modification with specific reference to these factors. All comments, other than those properly addressed to local land use authorities, will be considered by the FAA to the extent practicable. Copies of the noise exposure maps and the proposed noise compatibility program modification are available for examination at the following locations:

Federal Aviation Administration,
Orlando Airports District Office,
5950 Hazeltine National Drive,
Suite 400, Orlando, Florida 32822-5024.

Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority,
Sarasota-Bradenton International
Airport, 6000 Airport Circle,
Sarasota, FL 34243.

Questions may be directed to the individual named above under the heading, **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**